



Department of Energy
Germantown, MD 20874-1290

November 17, 1997

The Honorable Eni F. H. Faleomavaega
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-5201

Dear Congressman Faleomavaega:

This is in response to your letter of November 4, 1997, in which you recommended that my office consider selecting a Pacific islander to monitor the Department of Energy's (DOE) special medical care and surveillance program for the Rongelap and Utirik exposed population. Our Request for Applications (RFA), published in the Federal Register (62 FR 48065) on September 12, 1997, has been constructed to encourage just such involvement.

We appreciate your interest in our ongoing effort to competitively bid and award a cooperative agreement that will support a community-based approach for this program. In that DOE is using a competitive financial assistance award process, we cannot comment on the applications that have been submitted to us. An independent panel, chaired by the National Institutes of Health, will review the applications received by the Department, and based on the criteria published in the RFA, will make an award recommendation to DOE in early 1998.

We appreciate your interest in our program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Seligman", is written over the typed name.

Paul J. Seligman, M.D., M.P.H.
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Health Studies

